

SEATO file



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

NATIONAL MILITARY INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
POLICY COMMITTEE
(NDPC)

CONFIDENTIAL

March 5, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NDPC

SUBJECT: Disclosure Policy to SEATO

Since my memorandum of November 1, 1968, the Department of State has reviewed the problem of disclosure policy toward SEATO, including the cogent considerations raised by CINCPAC in his telegram to DIA of November 21, 1968 (DTG 210032Z).

On the basis of this and other related information, it has been concluded that certain disclosures of military information at the SECRET level would be advantageous to the interests of the United States, and that continued restriction of disclosures to the CONFIDENTIAL level could be harmful. Disclosures contribute importantly to the politico-military cohesion of SEATO, to the formulation of SEATO plans and programs, and to the influence and leadership exercised by U.S. military representatives in working with other SEATO members. There has been no evidence that disclosures of military information made to SEATO have been compromised or used to the disadvantage of the United States.

Accordingly, the Department of State now concurs in the selective release of military information to SEATO up to and including SECRET in Category 8

Group 1

Excluded from automatic downgrading
and declassification.


State Dept. review completed

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(Operational Planning) and Category 13 (Military Intelligence) with the understanding that continuing prudence will be exercised in limiting disclosures to those considered essential to accomplish U.S. purposes, that no disclosures of joint information will be made without the consent of each agency having control or interest in such information (including approval by the USIB when appropriate), and that the provisions of DCID 1/7 and page 7 of the Annex to NDPC-1 will be observed.


Howard Furnas
Chairman and State Member